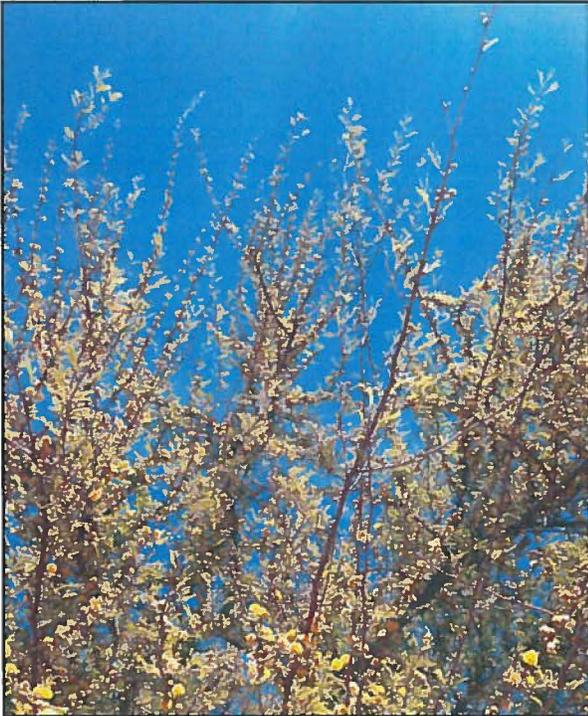


Urban Forest Program
Updates for the Urban Forestry
Committee

April 2019

Project Highlights

- Climate Change
- Public Tree Care
- Urban Forest Health
- Youth Engagement
- Community Tree Report



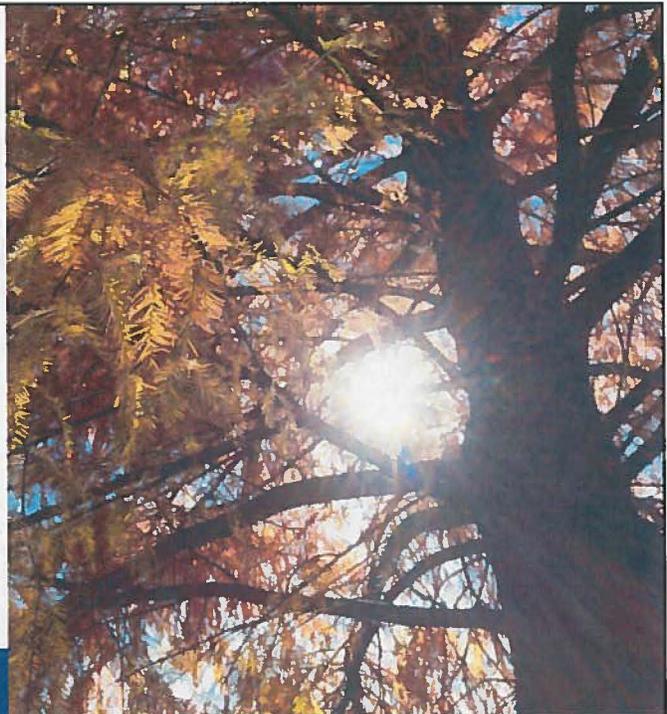
Climate Change

Planning for a resilient urban forest:
adapting to climate change

- Workshop agenda handout
- <https://forestadaptation.org/Austin>

Public Tree Care

- Web-based map for internal tracking
- Info sheet for Libraries *handout*





Urban Forest Health

- Emerald Ash Borer planning
 - 1-page overview handout
- Oak wilt resources
 - <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/oak-wilt-suppression>
 - <https://texasoakwill.org/>

Youth Engagement

- Youth Engagement Plan
 - <https://greeninfrastructure.bloomfire.com/posts/3495483-urban-forest-program-youth-engagement-plan>
- Tree climbing events
- Family events





Community Tree Report

- <https://austintexas.gov/urbanforest>
- 1-page overview handout

Emily King
Urban Forester
Community Tree Preservation Division
Development Services Department
Emily.King@austintexas.gov

Community Tree Report Summary

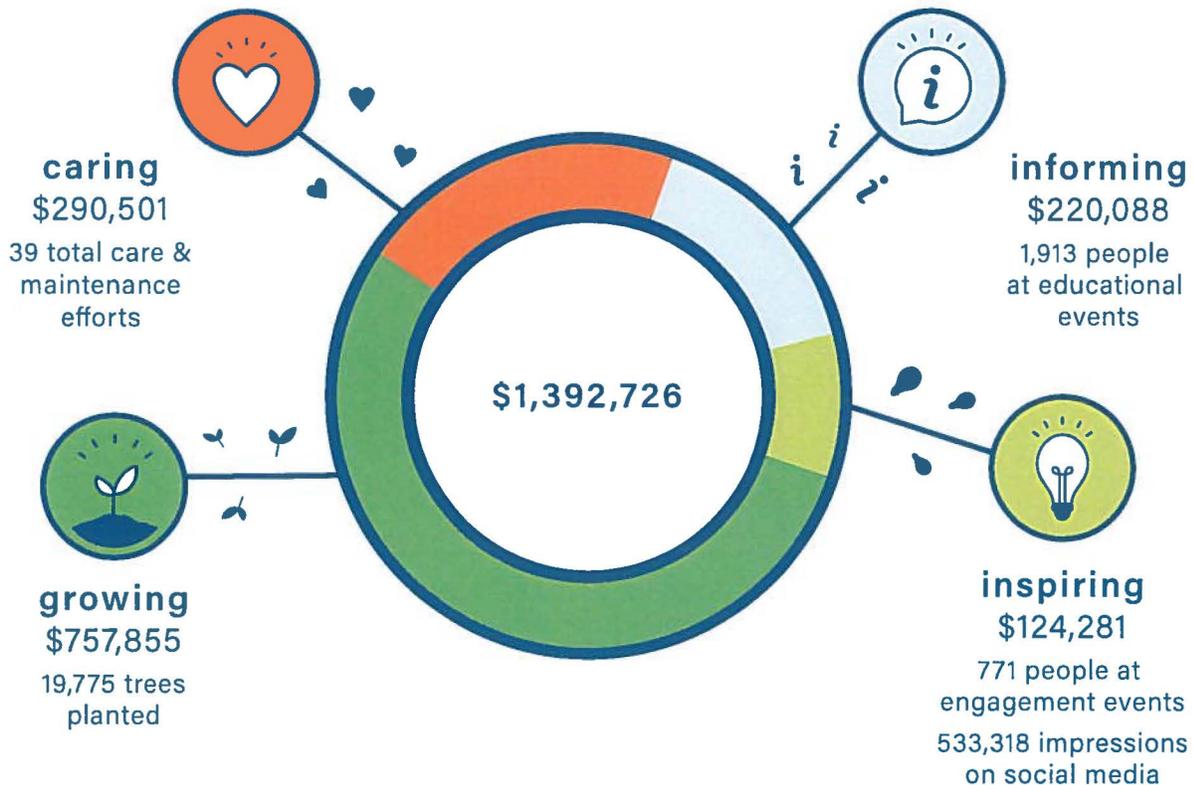
Stewardship Investment in Austin's Urban Forest

As our community continues to work toward our 2034 Vision for Austin's urban forest (see graphic below), we celebrate our successes and learn from our challenges. The data in the Community Tree Report offers insights into what our community is doing to reach our 2034 Vision, what areas we've impacted most, and suggests where resources and energy are needed in the future.



A Snapshot of the Community Tree Report Data | 2015-2017

The following graph represents stewardship activities occurring the city. In total, \$1,392,726 was invested across all major project categories from 2015 to 2017. The graph below shows the activities by major funding categories.



Trees Planted by Property Type | 2015-2017 | 19,935 Trees Planted

Tree planting is a priority for a healthy and resilient urban forest. It's an investment in our community's future forest. The graphs below showcase trees planted and distributed by land-type and by program.



** Not entirely funded by the Community Tree Preservation Division's activities. It has been included here for context related to tree planting programs across the City.*

Funding by Sector | 2015-2017 | \$1,392,726 Invested

The graph below shows the funding investments by sector over the past three years.



Want to Discover More?

Read the full online report for more information on tree stewardship funding and projects across Austin. The online Community Tree Report includes:

- an interactive map showing trees planted and urban forest projects funded by the City of Austin's Community Tree Preservation Division including NeighborWoods, Ready, Set, Plant!, and Austin Community Trees;
- slidedecks featuring each funded project from 2015 thru 2017;
- and an invitation to share your experience of the report through SpeakUp Austin!

Explore the Full Report!

Visit: www.bitly.com/treereportATX

Urban Forestry Project Status - April 2019

Urban Forest Funding Portal		
<i>FY2019 Approved projects</i>	UFRF	PFF*
ACT 2018	\$ 6,921	
Restoration of Native Forest Ecosystems	\$ 110,055	
Austin Public Library Tree Maintenance	\$ 50,000	
Austin Public Health Tree Care	\$ 80,000	
Exotic Plant Mapping and Treatment	\$ 50,250	
Waterloo Park - Capitol Complex Tree Transplant	\$ 550,000	
Building Services Department Tree Maintenance	\$ 80,000	
FY19 ROW Oak Wilt Preventative Injections	\$ 12,000	
<i>In Final Review</i>		
Economic Dev Red River	\$ 9,681	
Economic Dev Manor Gateway	\$ 29,546	
Wooldridge Green School Park Improvements		\$ 238,941
Trees at Alliance Children's Garden, Butler Park		\$ 200,000
	\$ 978,453	\$ 438,941
Budgeted for FY2019	\$ 979,000	\$ 100,000

Additional projects:

Bright Green Futures Grant	\$89,000
Mobility Corridor Bond	\$1,000,000
Contracted services	\$400,000

Urban Forest Grant	
<i>FY2019 Approved projects</i>	UFRF
AISD Urban Forest Specialist	\$ 41,819
I-Spy Playground Gates	\$ 5,756
Retreat Cyanotype Workshop	\$ 1,100
AISD TA Brown	\$ 12,195
APF: Building Urban Forest Awareness through Outreach, Engagement and Events	\$ 19,133
TreeFolks Pecan Springs Elementary Irrigation	\$ 9,500
Walnut Creek Ligustrum Clearing	\$ 3,300
Planting Maplewood's Future Great Trees	\$ 27,251
Small Middle School Forest Expansion	\$ 3,835
<i>In review</i>	
APF: Engaging the Community in Building Austin's Urban Forestry	\$ 115,000
Circle Acres Urban Forest Restoration and Enhancement PHASE 2	\$ 12,773
McBee Elementary Tree Plantings	\$ 35,000
Republic Square Auction Oaks Bough Support	\$ 16,504
Waterloo Park Tree Purchases & Nature-Based Programming at Symphony Square	\$ 74,500
Tree Folks Remove and Replace Program	\$ 76,089
TreeFolks Austin Environmental Heroes	\$ 82,000
Trail Foundation	\$ 115,000
	ACF Fees \$ 22,000
	\$ 672,755
Budgeted for FY2019	\$ 600,000

4e



Emerald Ash Borer and our ATX Ash Resource

Updated February 11th, 2019

Emerald Ash Borer is likely to kill all of Austin's ash trees. To prepare, resource managers need to coordinate planning efforts.

BACKGROUND

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was first detected in Detroit in 2002 and has devastated ash tree (*Fraxinus sp.*) populations throughout the mid-west and northeastern United States. Estimated cost to 25 states from 2009-2019 is \$10.7 billion¹. This invasive exotic beetle was confirmed in Tarrant County, just north of Ft. Worth in December 2018. The insect could be here now or arrive in the next 2-4 years. [EAB Story Map with more information.](#)

AUSTIN'S ASH RESOURCE

- Ash is our 9th most common tree and comprises 4.2% of our tree canopy, about 1.4 million trees.
- 83%, 1.1 million trees are green and Texas ash found in undeveloped, mostly riparian areas.
- 17%, 238,000 trees are Arizona or Mexican ash found in maintained areas, both public and private property.

BENEFITS PROVIDED BY OUR ASH RESOURCE

- 2.3 million cubic feet/year in avoided stormwater runoff
- 30,000 tons of carbon storage
- 3,000 tons of annual carbon sequestered
- Contribute to property value
- \$250 million in compensatory value

¹ Kovacs, Kent F. "Cost of potential emerald ash borer damage in U.S. communities, 2009-2019." Ecological Economics 69 (2010): 569-578.

Ash resource and benefits are taken from the USDA's Urban Forest Inventory Analysis for Austin. Questions about EAB? Contact April Rose, Urban Forest Health Program Coordinator at april.rose@austintexas.gov.

CHALLENGES AND IMPLICATIONS

- Public health and safety: dead trees are very brittle and dangerous: 13 people have been killed in 2017 and 2018. Costs for removal, increased temperatures, increased energy bills, and heat related illness.
- Difficult to detect
- Riparian areas will have an increased risk of wildfire, erosion, and invasive vegetation. 50% of trees fall within 5 years, 90% in 10 years.
- Large volume of wood waste, and reclamation opportunities.
- Loss of ecosystem services and property values.
- Impacts to maintenance budgets, and deferred maintenance to address EAB.
- Opportunities: species diversity, collaboration, increase awareness of urban forest.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Coordinated planning and collaboration
- Communication with stakeholders
- Monitor for early detection
- Identify areas with high concentration of ash
- Proactive removal of trees in poor condition
- Proactive inventory of ash trees for treatment
- Replant/revegetate to limit canopy loss and ecosystem impacts

NEXT STEPS

- Establish committed working group
- Develop working group goal and individual responsibilities
- Identify additional members
- Request to join the EAB working group by emailing leah.haynie@austintexas.gov

DESIRED WORKING GROUP OUTCOMES

- Adopt template for use by CoA land managers
- Develop ash management plans + tools for municipal natural resource managers

Ash resource and benefits are taken from the USDA's Urban Forest Inventory Analysis for Austin. Questions about EAB? Contact April Rose, Urban Forest Health Program Coordinator at april.rose@austintexas.gov.

Community Forest Vulnerability Workshop

June 10-11, 2019

Agenda

Day 1

8:30 Welcome/introductions-Emily King, City of Austin
Urban Forester

9:00 Local climate change impacts and implications for
the area's trees –Cait Rottler, USDA Southern Plains
Climate Hub

10:00 Break

10:15 Climate change vulnerability of Austin's trees-
Leslie Brandt, USDA Forest Service and Northern
Institute of Applied Climate Science

11:15 Introduction to assessment process –Leslie
Brandt

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Group assessment of urban core

2:30 Group assessment of residential areas-west
Austin

3:30 Break

3:45 Group assessment of residential areas-east Austin

4:30 Adjourn for day

Location

Street-Jones Building
1000 East 11Th Street, Austin, TX
78702

Objectives:

- Understand key climate change impacts to Austin's community forest
- Provide feedback on species vulnerability list for Austin's trees
- Assess the vulnerability of the community forest in developed areas
- Assess the vulnerability of key natural ecosystems in the Austin region
- Develop vulnerability summaries for developed and natural areas to inform future adaptation strategies.



Agenda

Day 2

8:30 Complete loose ends from Day 1

9:00 Group Assessment of natural areas: Edwards Plateau

10:30 Break

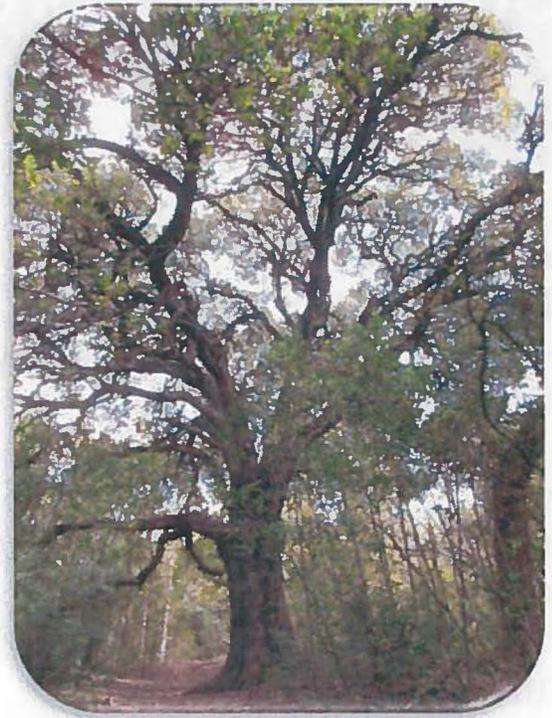
10:45 Group Assessment of natural areas: Blackland Prairie

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Group assessment of natural areas: Floodplains and low terraces

2:30 Wrap-up and next steps

3:00 Adjourn



More information

- This project is part of the Urban Forestry Climate Change Response Framework: <https://forestadaptation.org/focus/urban-forests>
- Methods used in this assessment build on a similar assessment done for the Chicago region: https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs168.pdf
- Methods for natural area assessment build on similar assessments for ecoregions in the Midwest and Northeast: <https://forestadaptation.org/assess/ecosystem-vulnerability>
- More information about the USDA Southern Plains Hub: <https://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/hubs/southern-plains>





FREE!

**RECREATIONAL
TREE CLIMBING
COURSE**

ZILKER PARK | SAT. MAY 4 | 9AM – 2PM

Get hands-on tree climbing experience in a small class setting alongside certified arborists from the City of Austin’s Urban Forestry Programs.



Learn about safety, knot tying, setting ropes, gear selection, basic ascending techniques, and much more!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This half-day course is designed for those interested in recreational* tree climbing.

SPACE IS LIMITED. REGISTER TODAY:
ATXTREECLIMB.EVENTBRITE.COM

QUESTIONS?

Contact Aimee Aubin at
aimee.aubin@austintexas.gov

* A course for professional climbers
will be offered in Fall 2019.

Brought to you by the City of Austin's Parks and
Recreation and Development Services Departments.